



ABLEISM

◆ Ian Jones
(Lifelong paraplegic.)

Institutional Ableism



(Unless you count Delaware's disabled parking placard system in the 1950s,) disability rights really started in Berkeley in the early 1960s.

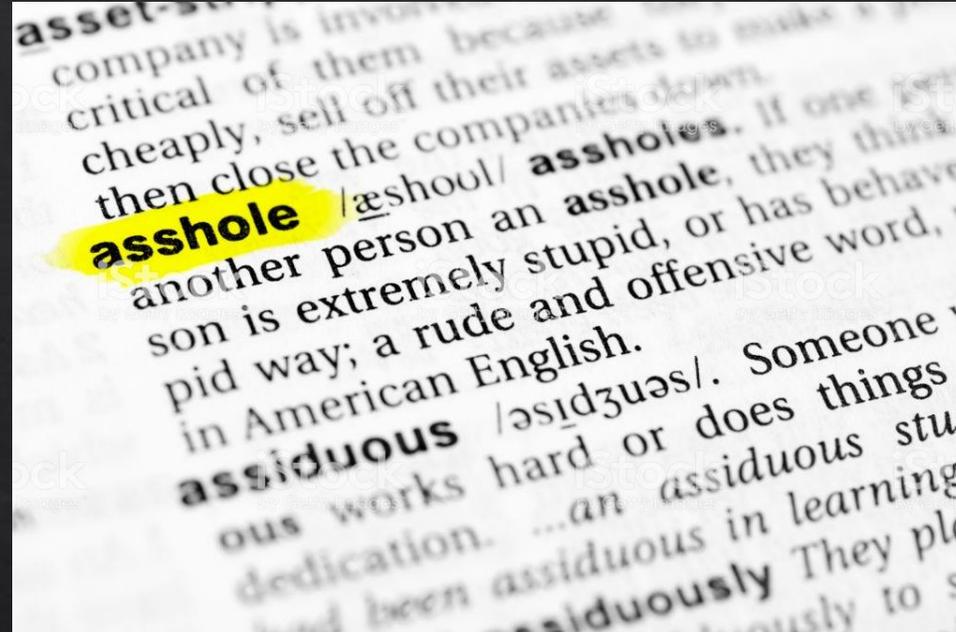
- ◆ Ed Roberts
 - ◆ Pioneer
 - ◆ the first student who relied on a wheelchair to attend UC Berkeley.

- ◆ When he applied to the university in 1962...

One of the deans said ...

**“We’ve tried cripples before,
and it didn’t really work.”***

...I KNOW, RIGHT?



(But "Go Bears!" ... I guess..?)

ableism: **institutional**

- Inaccessible gov't facilities
- When funding for programs like MediCare is cut.
- Focus on disability as something to be “overcome” or inspirational
- Lack of books in Braille or on tape. No subtitles available in videos.
- No assistive technology for classrooms.

Types of ableism: **institutional**

- In some places in the US, the disabled can be paid less than minimum wage – on average of just \$2.15 *per hour*. – an exception to the Fair Labor Standards Act*
 - (This is changing...Slowly.)*
 - If that's what they *can* pay us...
WHERE IS THE INCENTIVE TO WORK?

Types of ableism: **institutional**



Marriage inequality

If you get married, you can lose your benefits.

Types of ableism: psychological

- ◇ Assumptions
 - ◇ a person's abilities, physical or mental.
 - ◇ Mocking
 - ◇ Minimizing
 - ◇ a disability is always visible
(Not true: cystic fibrosis, epilepsy, diabetes, asthma, ADHD, anxiety, EDS, autism/Asperger's, Crohn's, heart conditions, etc.)
 - ◇ Disabled people have no autonomy
 - ◇ Life with a disability is not worth living.
- ◇ Feeling entitled to know how someone became disabled
 - ◇ Two points here:
 - ◇ It's cool to be curious
 - ◇ And if people *want* to talk about it, great...

Types of ableism (psychological) - Language: Slurs

- ◇ Maybe not so obvious ones
 - ◇ The presumptuous (and offensive) ones
 - ◇ “wheelchair bound/confined to a wheelchair,” “suffers from...” “handicapped.”
 - ◇ The very offensive ones:
 - “Special needs,” “Handicapable,” “differently abled.”
 - ◇ Phrases like “(succeeded) *in spite of their disability*,” “turn a *blind* eye,” “fall on *deaf* ears,” etc.
 - ◇ These are patronizing or sugar coating

Types of ableism - **psychological**

- ◇ Hostility
 - ◇ Avoidance (passive aggression!)
 - ◇ Hate crimes against disabled people (increasing)
 - ◇ The idea that not being vaccinated is better than autism.
 - ◇ The idea that **death is preferable to life** with a disability.

- ◇ Being referred to *as* your disability or diagnosis.
 - ◇ (“This person is Autistic!” vs “person with autism.”*)
 - ◇ Or even being referred to right off the top as DISABLED without the other person knowing anything else about you.
There’s more to me than my disability.

Types of ableism: **Physical**

- ◆ Physical barriers
- ◆ Scheduling gym classes upstairs in new buildings when the elevator is still out of service (Hello, LPC...)
- ◆ Architectural design



ableism: Physical

- ◇ Pushing a person using a wheelchair without asking first.

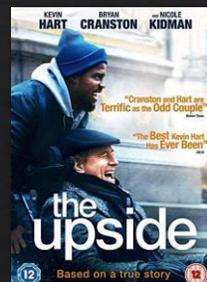
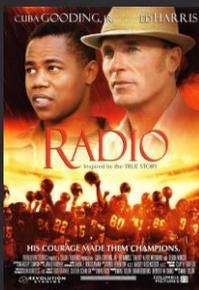


↑ \$40 on Etsy

Ableism within disabled communities

- ◇ GATEKEEPING (“They’re not really disabled.”)
- ◇ LATERAL (“Glad I don’t have their disability...”)
- ◇ INTERNALIZED (taking what society believes about the disabled to heart – e.g., “I’m a burden.”)

Ableism in AMERICAN pop culture





Memes and photos of disabled people living (what should be) their mundane daily lives used solely for inspiring able-bodied people.